Oakland College. Feb. 2nd ~~Jan. 28th~~ 1839.

To the Missionary Society in the Theological Seminary in Princeton

Dear Brethren;

Deeply sensible of the advantages resulting from the intercourse of different Missionary Societies, in the cultivation of Christian charity, the removal of local prejudices, & the communication of valuable intelligence, we are desirous of opening a correspondence with you.

We cannot promise however that our communications to you will be very interesting, though we anticipate much from your communications to us.

We shall confine ourselves at present to the statement of a few facts in relation to ourselves & our State & region, & to the making of a few inquiries.

The number of students in our College, embracing a Preparatory & English Department, is about 100, the number professing to be pious about 30, the greater part of whom intend to study for the ministry, the number now in the Theological Depart. 6. As a Missionary Society we have raised between four & five hundred dollars during the past year to support the gospel in Mississipi in Africa, & could a man be obtained we have no doubt that he could be liberally supported in that field through our instumentality.

One of our number has the subject of duty as to personal labor as a Missionary to that field now under serious consideration, but has not yet decided the question.

The claims of our own country & especially this region of it upon the efforts of the Church, & the personal labors of her ministers are strong. You are perhaps aware that there are but two or three strictly Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Arkansaw, one or two in Texas, & six or eight in Louisiania, & that a very large portion of this State is destitute. The harvest truly is ~~white~~ great but the laborers are few. The Macedonian cry is evidently among us. The people in many of our most flourishing towns & villages & in many parts of the country are literally hungering for the bread of life. They are every where willing to hear & in many places to support the gospel. It is true, the minister who would be useful among them must expect to undergo much labor & self-denial, must go out into the high ways & hedges, & preach Christ to all claſses of men, must often give up the pleasures of refined society, & be content to labor among the poor & illiterate, &, like his maſter, to be the companion of publicans & sinners. But these considerations will have but little weight with the mind that duly appreciates the value of the object to be accomplished.

Though we are not desirous that in answering this letter you should be confined to any subjects which we may propose, we shall be gratified if you will attend to the following inquiries.

1st " What are your views in relation to the duty of young men, who are, or may be, qualified, to devote themselves to the work of the Ministry?

2nd " What do you consider a call to personal labor as a foreign Miſsionary?

3rd " What are the most effectual methods by which as a Society you promote the cause of Miſsions?

4th How as individuals do you promote the cause of miſsions in the community?

5th How many of your number have devoted themselves to the foreign miſsionary service?

We hope you will answer these inquiries without delay, communicating whatever you may deem important connected with the Miſsionary enterprise & the general interests of Zion. May the Lord purify & guide, support & encourage us, & may we live & labor for eternity is our humble &, we trust, sincere petition. Brethren, pray for us. Our hope is in the grace of God alone.

Your brethren in the Lord,

For the Miſsionary Society

John W. Buie Cor. Sec.

June 18 Oakland College Mi

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Ansd Aug. 12, 1839.

Missionary Society of Inquiry
Theological Seminary
Princeton
New. Jersey